

## HAWAIIAN SNAKES

IMAGINE MEETING a snake in snakeless Hawaii! Well, you won't, thanks to the prompt action of longshoremen who killed two would-be serpent immigrants about to land at Oahu. The snakes had stowed away on a boat at Manus Island in the Bismarck Archipelago. The captors, after eating the more succulent portions of the reptiles, sent the heads and necks to Mr. Joseph Slevin, the Academy's Curator of Herpetology, for identification. The first specimen, reportedly a five-foot one, belonged to a boreal back-fanged species of the genus *Bioga*. This moderately poisonous snake was discovered during unloading operations. The second specimen proved to be a harmless, terrestrial form, belonging to the genus *Stegonotus*. It caused considerable consternation by emerging suddenly from the ship's hold when that area was opened following a supposedly thorough cyanide fumigation.



## STAFF NOTES

DR. G. DALLAS HANNA, Curator of Paleontology, has reported from Alaska, where he has gone for a two months' scientific survey of Dall Island, "weather fine—no rain—no snow—no wind—no glaciers—no bears—no mosquitoes—no Eskimos—lots of fish—birds scarce—flowers blooming—a few snails—a few slugs—no salamanders yet."

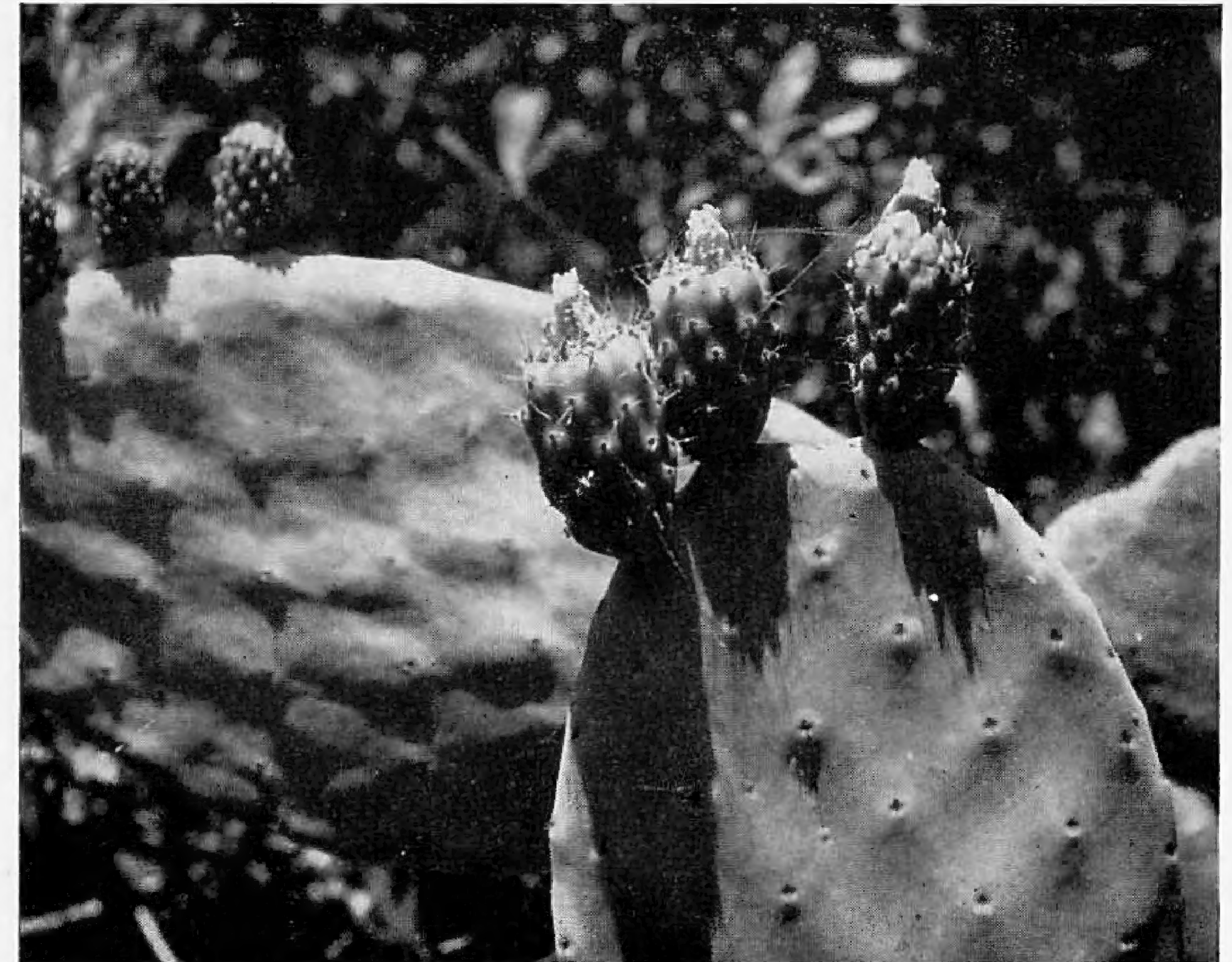
Dr. Edward L. Kessel of the Department of Entomology spent several days in northern California and southern Oregon collecting Diptera.

Dr. Robert T. Orr, Curator of Birds and Mammals, spent June 17–27 at Lake Tahoe where he continued his observations on the habits and distribution of the birds and mammals of the lake basin. He secured a number of wildlife photographs and also obtained a representative collection of fungi occurring in the region.

# ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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PRICKLY PEAR

Photograph by Lionel T. Berryhill

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## *July Announcement*

THE REGULAR JULY MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in Room 214, Simson African Hall, on Wednesday afternoon, July 16, 1947, at three o'clock. The speaker will be Dr. Edward S. Ross of the Academy's Department of Entomology. His talk will be entitled

### MOTORING TO ACAPULCO

Tours to Mexico by automobile are now becoming commonplace. However, considerable misinformation prevails among the many who have not yet made such a trip. Dr. Ross has recently returned from an Academy expedition to Acapulco and will give an account of his trip and also answer questions relative to ways and means of motoring in Mexico. In addition to supplying practical travel information, Dr. Ross will describe many scenic attractions along his route, emphasizing points of particular interest to the naturalist. The lecture will be illustrated by a series of kodachrome projections.

The public is cordially invited.



### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NOTICE is hereby given to all Corporate Members that the Council at its July meeting approved the applications of Mr. Robert L. Rudd for MEMBERSHIP, and of George Adams and John Cary for STUDENT MEMBERSHIP in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after July 18, they will be considered elected.



### THE ACADEMY'S SHOP

ALTHOUGH THE WARTIME activity of the shop as a center for the manufacture and repair of optical apparatus for the United States Navy has officially ended, the Academy's technical staff, headed by Dr. G. Dallas Hanna, Curator of the Department of Paleontology, is continuing its assistance to the Navy. This work is in connection with a program of collaboration with the Electrical Engineering Depart-

ment of the University of California, where much research for the Navy is being carried on. This highly specialized work requires the deposition under high vacuum of gold and aluminum on such bases as glass and bakelite. The Academy is the only place in this area which is equipped to do this type of work. Dr. Hanna designed and built the special equipment, and has trained Mrs. R. W. Greeby to carry through the procedure.

The Academy's shop also makes special apparatus for other scientific institutions. Mr. A. S. Getten, the Academy's instrument designer, has just completed a new water sampler for the California State Fisheries Laboratory of the Division of Fish and Game. Mr. Getten designed this new model with a lucite cylinder instead of the usual brass, enabling the observer to view the interior and also to read the enclosed thermometer with ease.



### JUNIOR NATURALISTS

THE 1947 SUMMER PROGRAM of the Academy's Junior Naturalists is in full swing. Morning classes for everyone (ages ten to eighteen), special projects, workshops, discussions, and all-day field trips, these are the activities which Miss Joanne Taylor, supervisor of the student groups, has set in motion for the vacation period. Each of the nine weeks of the summer has its special topic for consideration. For example, July 7-11 will be devoted to the "Six-legged Zoo" or the study of insects. During the week the students will learn "who are cops and robbers," how to make an insect net, and how to start an insect collection. Between July 28 and August 1 the students will be "Seeing Stars." The chief project for that period will be to learn how to make a planetarium. The Junior Naturalists' clubroom in Simson African Hall will be open every weekday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



### INSECT HOUSING PROGRAM

THERE WAS GREAT rejoicing in the Department of Entomology recently when at long last the first steel insect cases of the extensive series now in production were delivered. For some weeks there has been a steady supply of drawers coming from the Academy's industrious shop, but the same material shortages which have hampered adequate housing production for man have caused a corresponding delay in obtaining proper housing for the insect specimen population of our museum. The long-term plan for the manufacture of this equipment calls for 150 cases and 3,600 drawers, all necessary for the arrangement of the Academy's huge insect collection. Special equipment to facilitate the production of the drawers was designed and built by Mr. R. W. Greeby and Mr. A. S. Getten of the Academy's shop. This equipment includes a saw and assembling clamp which have done much to reduce both time and cost in the manufacture of the drawers.